United Nations A/60/75

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 May 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Item 57 (b) of the preliminary list*
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 29 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which hosted the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations in the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action from 29 to 31 March 2005, I have the honour to transmit the joint communiqué adopted by the High-level Meeting on 31 March 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under item 57 (b) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

* A/60/50 and Corr.1.

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Annex to the letter dated 29 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint communiqué adopted at the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations in the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action on 31 March 2005

We, the representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, having met in Almaty from 29 to 31 March 2005 for the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations in the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, affirm the following:

1. The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries is the internationally agreed plan for addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries through establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries.

2. We reiterate our commitment to supporting the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. In achieving this objective, we stress the importance of taking concrete steps in accordance with the road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was endorsed at the Inter-Agency Meeting convened on 4 February 2004 in New York. In this context, we note that the United Nations Millennium Development Project Report stressed that the Millennium Development Goals-based strategies addressing the special needs of the landlocked developing countries should be based on the recommendations contained in the road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

3. We recognize the importance of acting on the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004 to integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into the work programme of our organizations.

4. We reiterate our commitment to continuing to extend technical assistance to landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems. In this regard, we agree to continue our work towards enhancing the coordination of our technical assistance programmes in transit transport in order to maximize the benefits derived for landlocked and transit developing countries. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is requested to continue the consultations on the best possible ways to help these coordination efforts, including on its proposal on a coordinated technical cooperation programme.

5. We recognize the importance of the development of transport infrastructure, especially completion of "missing links" that would facilitate movement of goods and persons along transit corridors. In this regard, we stress the importance of developing a set of criteria for financing that should take into account benefits derived from the project for poverty alleviation rather than one based solely on

commercial considerations. In this regard, a code of conduct could be developed to provide guidance to member States and development partners in their project proposal evaluation.

6. We stress the importance of establishing common indicators to monitor progress in establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries. In this regard, ongoing initiatives within various regional and subregional organizations as well as those of the regional commissions, including time/cost methodology developed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, should be further developed and harmonized in order to design broadly acceptable indicators to measure progress made in establishing efficient transit transport systems and to monitor the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

7. We appreciate the initiative undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to organize this High-level Meeting. We stress the need for the continuing organization of this Meeting on an annual basis to review progress, draw lessons and share experiences of the international, regional and subregional organizations.

8. We take note with appreciation of the statements made by Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries and Mr. Ruben Ramirez, Vice-Minister for Foreign Relations of Paraguay, who represented Ms. Leila Rachid, Foreign Minister of Paraguay, in her capacity as Coordinator of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries on trade and development issues. We also thank Mr. Kassymzhomart Tokaev, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Kazhmurat Nagmanov, Minister for Transport and Communication, for their statements representing the host Government.

9. We commend the continued efforts made by the Government of Kazakhstan in promoting the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and we express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their generous hospitality and support for the successful holding of this High-level Meeting.